

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) In a mower-conditioner including a carrier frame extending transversely to the direction of travel of the mower-conditioner and having opposite ends supported on ground wheels, a tongue having a rear region mounted to ~~an end region of~~ said carrier frame for pivoting about an upright axis, ~~a powered extensible and retractable tongue actuator coupled between said carrier frame and said tongue~~, a cutting platform suspended from said carrier frame and including a rotary cutter bar extending transversely between and fixed to a pair of opposite side walls, said platform including a housing including an access door normally located in a working position wherein it extends generally horizontally above said cutter bar between said opposite side walls, with said access door being mounted for pivoting vertically to an open position wherein said door is in a path of movement of said tongue when the latter is pivoted ~~inwardly~~ toward said door ~~from an outward position~~, the improvement comprising: said tongue being operatively connected to said door, at least when said door is in said open position, so as to cause said door to be moved to said working position in response to ~~one of~~ said tongue moving toward said door or to said tongue actuator being controlled for moving said tongue toward said door.

2. (currently amended) The mower-conditioner, as defined in claim 1, wherein said operative connection is established by a door engaging member ~~support~~ mounted to said tongue in a location where it engages ~~is engaged by~~ said door when said door is in said open position.

3. (currently amended) The mower-conditioner, as defined in claim 2, wherein said door engaging member ~~support~~ is specially shaped so that it causes ~~said door to be closed prior to being engaged by said tongue when said tongue is mowed toward said access door defined by a triangular member having an edge having a rear region which supports an outer upper location of said open access door, with said edge extending forwardly and outwardly from said rear region to a forward end which is fixed to said tongue.~~

4. (original) The mower-conditioner, as defined in claim 1, wherein said operative connection is established by a linkage coupled between said tongue and access door.

5. (original) The mower-conditioner, as defined in claim 4, wherein said

linkage includes a one-way connection which transfers motion of said tongue to said door to effect closing of the door only when said tongue is moved toward said door.

6. (currently amended) The mower-conditioner, as defined in claim 1, wherein said a tongue actuator in the form of is a first hydraulic cylinder is connected between said carrier frame and said tongue; a second hydraulic actuator being coupled to said access door and coupled in a hydraulic circuit with said first hydraulic actuator such that when said first hydraulic cylinder is actuated said second hydraulic actuator will sequence prior to said first hydraulic cylinder so as to cause said door to close prior to swinging movement of said tongue.